

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167142
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 167142

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, XF, US

SUBJECT: LONDON MIDDLE EAST TALKS AND RELATED MATTERS

1. IN PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND PROPOSED LONDON TALKS, IT
SEEMS TO US THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS WE NEED TO DO TO
HELP KEEP MATTERS ON THE RAILS.

2. FIRST, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF ENCOURAGING SAUDIS
AND JORDANIANS, WHO CONTINUE TO DISPLAY SENSE OF GROWING
DOUBT AND ACUTE NERVOUSNESS, TO STAY WITH SADAT. IN
INITIALLY PUTTING IDEA OF LONDON TALKS TO EGYPTIANS, YOU
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 167142

WILL RECALL THAT WE SAID WE WOULD WEIGH IN WITH SAUDIS
AND JORDANIANS JUST BEFORE THEY WERE ANNOUNCED. GIVEN
SUBSEQUENT PRESS LEAKS AND FACT IT WILL STILL BE SOME
DAYS BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE
WE SHOULD NOT DELAY ANY LONGER IN SEEKING TO LINE UP
SAUDI AND JORDANIAN UNDERSTANDING AND, IF POSSIBLE,
SUPPORT. WE ARE THEREFORE SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO BOTH

AMMAN AND JIDDA (WHICH ARE BEING REPEATED TO YOU), BUT TELLING AMBASSADOR WEST AND CHARGE SUDDARTH THEY SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CHECK WITH SADAT AND/OR KAMEL TO CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOW MAKE THESE APPROACHES IN AMMAN AND JIDDA. AS SOON AS YOU HAVE CHECKED WITH EGYPTIANS,

YOU SHOULD INFORM WEST AND SUDDARTH DIRECTLY SO THAT THEY CAN PROCEED.

3. SECOND, WE HAVE NOTED PRESS REPORTS QUOTING KAMEL AS SAYING THAT WHETHER OR NOT LONDON TALKS ARE HELD WILL DEPEND ON ISRAELI REACTION TO EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL. WE HAD EARLIER UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT KAMEL SAID TO YOU THAT HE ANTICIPATED AN ISRAELI REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL BUT THAT EGYPT WOULD THEREAFTER RESPOND POSITIVELY TO A REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT CARTER FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN LONDON. IT IS NOT AT ALL A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT ISRAELIS WILL SIMPLY REJECT EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL OUTRIGHT, THOUGH THEY CLEARLY WILL NOT LIKE IT. WHATEVER THEIR REACTION, HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO MIS-UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND OURSELVES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ON THIS SCORE, YOU SHOULD RECONFIRM WITH KAMEL THAT THE REVISED LONDON SCENARIO WILL GO FORWARD AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 167142

IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD PLAN TO CONVEY EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL (CAIRO 15183) TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS MONDAY, JULY 3, TO PASS TO THE ISRAELIS THE FOLLOWING DAY. AS KAMEL HAS REQUESTED, WE WOULD THEN WAIT FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND THEN CONVEY PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORMAL INVITATION TO SADAT AND BEGIN TO HAVE THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET TOGETHER WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN LONDON JULY 18 AND 19. ASSUMING PRESIDENT'S INVITATION IS SENT JULY 7, WE WOULD PLAN TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT HERE FOLLOWING DAY, JULY 8. WITH PROVISION THAT THIS TIMETABLE COULD SLIP BY A DAY OR SO, YOU SHOULD CONFIRM WITH KAMEL THAT WE ARE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH. YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK WHETHER TEXT OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL IN CAIRO 15183 IS FINAL TEXT TO BE CONVEYED TO ISRAELIS OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY FURTHER CHANGES.

4. FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO RECENT PUBLICITY ABOUT A POSSIBLE WEIZMAN-GAMASY MEETING, YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE EGYPTIANS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SUCH A MEETING, MAKING CLEAR WE WOULD NOT SEE IT IN ANY WAY AS CUTTING ACROSS OUR STRATEGY AND WOULD IN FACT SEE IT AS SUPPORTIVE OF THAT STRATEGY. VANCE

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